

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An air gap spacer for providing spacing between an outer wall surface of a building under construction and an exterior cladding material, the air gap spacer comprising:

~~an apertured~~ a planar surface for attachment to a surface of the exterior cladding material to maintain said cladding material in spaced relationship to the outer wall surface having a plurality of cutouts; and

a plurality of mutually spaced protrusions of substantially uniform height depending from one side of said ~~apertured~~ planar surface, the apices of at least some of said protrusions forming a protrusion plane, the protrusion plane ~~being capable of attachment~~ for abutment to the outer wall surface of the building;

whereby, when the spacer is in place, liquid and air may pass through channels formed among the protrusions to facilitate air circulation and liquid drainage.

2. (Currently Amended) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions depend from said ~~apertured~~ planar surface at least approximately perpendicularly.

3. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions are of like dimensions, terminating to form said protrusion plane.

4. (Currently Amended) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusion plane is ~~t~~ at least substantially parallel to said ~~apertured plane~~ planar surface.

5. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said apertured surface comprises aperture surface areas and matter surface area of similar magnitudes.

6. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said apertured surface comprises greater aperture surface areas than matter surface areas.

7. (Currently Amended) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein

the ~~apertures~~ cutouts of the ~~apertured~~ said planar surface are of a repeating pattern over at least substantially the entire spacer.

8. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions are of a repeating pattern over at least substantially the entire surface of the spacer.

9. (Currently Amended) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the ~~apertures~~ cutouts are selected from a shape of the group consisting of: diamond, circular, square, rectangular, oval and quadrilateral.

10. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions are selected from a shape of the group consisting of: pyramidal, flat topped pyramidal, conical, flat topped conical, rectangular based pyramid, cuboid and rectangular block.

11. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the spacer is made by at least one of: injection moulding, pouring moulding, extrusion or stamping.

12. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer comprising: an apertured sheet material of at least substantially uniform thickness, the sheet material being adapted for placement between an outer wall surface of a building under construction and an exterior cladding material so as to provide an air gap therebetween, wherein the spacer material includes passages therein, so as to permit air circulation and liquid drainage among said apertures.

13. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein said sheet material is of a lattice structure forming diamond shaped apertures, said passages running through the lattice structure.

14. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein said passages are disposed at intersections formed by said spacer material.

15. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the air gap spacer is adapted to be secured to the surface of the building being constructed by way of securing means selected from the group consisting of tacks, nails and screws.

16. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the air

gap spacer comprises a plurality of mounting holes therein, whereby securing means may be placed therethrough for attaching the spacer to the surface of the building being constructed.

17. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the exterior cladding material is one of: siding, shingles, brick and clapboard.

18. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the spacer is made of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, metal, aluminum, and pressed wood particle product.

19. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein the air gap spacer is adapted to be secured to the surface of the building being constructed by way of securing means selected from the group consisting of tacks, nails and screws.

20. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein the air gap spacer comprises a plurality of mounting holes therein, whereby securing means may be placed therethrough for attaching the spacer to the surface of the building being constructed.

21. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein the exterior cladding material is one of: siding, shingles, brick and clapboard.

22. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein the spacer is made of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, metal, aluminum, and pressed wood particle product.

23. (New) An air gap spacer for providing spacing between an outer wall surface of a building under construction and an exterior cladding material, the air gap spacer comprising:

- a lattice-shaped planar surface having a plurality of cutouts; and
- a plurality of mutually spaced protrusions of substantially uniform height depending from one side of said lattice-shaped planar surface, the apices of at least some of said protrusions forming a protrusion plane, the protrusion plane for abutment to the outer wall surface of the building;

whereby, when the spacer is in place, liquid and air may pass through channels formed among the protrusions to facilitate air circulation and liquid drainage.